



News Release

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Prescribed Burns Planned at City Parks

The Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is planning a series of prescribed burns at parks and nature areas over the coming weeks. The burns will take place at Stephens Lake Park, and the Grindstone, Garth, and Forum Nature Areas.

The burns could take place at any time between now and April 15. Exact dates and times are not known, as conditions for a prescribed burn depend mainly on the weather.

Before burns are conducted, signs will be posted on the site. Parks and Recreation will also work with the City's joint communications department and the fire department to ensure safety.

Prescribed burns are helpful in maintaining natural areas. The department uses prescribed burning to enhance native grasses, forbs, legumes, and wildlife habitat. Prescribed burns also aid in suppressing cool season grasses and weeds which can decrease the diversity of the ecosystem. Left unchecked, these areas would become stagnant with the wildlife habitat being virtually eliminated.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 874-7460.